

## HOUSING

*(Q) What are the housing options for families of deployed servicemembers?*

(A) The options are similar for occupancy of government-controlled and private rental housing. Specific procedures must be followed and coordinated through servicing housing offices once the decision is made to retain or terminate housing.

The options are:

a. The family remains "in country" and retains housing.

(1) Family members residing in government-controlled and private rental housing may retain assigned housing after the sponsor deploys and remain there until his return. Spouses who remain assume responsibility for the care and upkeep of the quarters. If family members leave for a period of time they must advise the housing office of their departure and arrange for a responsible party to continue the care and upkeep of the quarters.

(2) Single parents and dual-servicemember couples who are both deploying may retain government-controlled and private rental housing for their family members during deployment. They must appoint a legal guardian who assumes responsibility for the care and conduct of minor children. In order for the legal guardian to reside in quarters, written approval from the Base Support Battalion commander is required. If family members plan to return to the United States for a period of time, the sponsor must make arrangements for the care and upkeep of their government-controlled and private rental housing, including payment of bills for rent and/or utilities.

b. Terminate government-controlled and private rental housing when family members return by Early Return of Dependents orders.

(1) Sponsors whose family members return to the U.S. at government expense on ERD orders will vacate housing. They are not eligible for occupancy of family housing following the return of the sponsor from deployment.

(2) Termination inspections must be coordinated through the servicing housing and transportation offices prior to initiating termination action for private rental housing. Termination of leases will be in accordance with lease contract agreements. A Power of Attorney is required for anyone other than the soldier or spouse to terminate private rental housing. Costs associated with terminating the lease agreement are not reimbursable by the government.

*(Q) What arrangements are being made to provide for security within the local community once units deploy?*

(A) The Base Support Battalion is responsible for security

*(Q) Who will put in work orders if the area coordinator, building coordinator and stairwell coordinator are deployed?*

(A) Anyone residing in building can put in a work order for his/her own quarters.

*(Q) Who will have quarters keys in the event of an emergency?*

(A) In the event of an emergency, keys can be obtained from the Housing Office during duty hours. After duty hours, residents can call the fire department for assistance.

*(Q) Are families still responsible for conducting spring and fall clean-ups at their quarters during deployment?*

(A) Technically, no. The person assigned for the quarters is responsible for conducting clean-up. This issue should be worked on a case-by-case basis with building coordinator.

*(Q) What is the plan for stairwell maintenance on items such as lawn mowers and washers and dryers?*

(A) Lawn mowers can be turned in to Housing and the Directorate of Public Works for maintenance. Work order requests can be turned in to DPW for washers and dryers. DPW will remain functional during deployments.

*(Q) Will there be a policy letter issued concerning the payment of utilities or rent for those choosing to return to the States?*

(A) Those choosing to return to the States throughout the deployment should set up a bank account at the Community Bank in order to pay their monthly bills. The family can either set up an allotment, or make monthly deposits to the account in order to ensure that rent and utilities are paid.

*(Q) Can off-post housing contracts be broken without penalty?*

(A) Yes, off-post housing contracts can be broken. Personnel who are deploying can usually get out of housing contracts with leniency, and are not required to give the full 90 day notice for vacating the home.

*(Q) Can single soldiers who live off post store their personal belongs at the government's expense until they return from a deployment? If so, will they have to terminate their leases?*

(A) Yes, single soldiers who are scheduled to deploy can their household goods stored at the Government's expense. Yes, those soldiers storing their goods will have to terminate their leases.

*(Q) Due to waiting lists for government housing, some families may be coming to Europe on deferred travel after their sponsors have deployed. How will those spouses ensure that their sponsor's entitlements are granted upon arrival here?*

(A) The deploying servicemember should provide his spouse with a General Power of Attorney prior to deployment.

*(Q) When the soldiers deploy, revenue at activities such as the community club, theater and bowling alley will drop. Will these facilities still remain open?*

(A) Families can feel confident that a range of Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities and family support services will continue in the months ahead. Some activities may have shorter hours, depending on usage, available manpower and other factors, but the intent is to keep their doors open as much as possible. There are a multitude of services available to ensure family separations are as trouble-free as possible.

*(Q) I live off-post where Stars and Stripes delivery is not available. Is Stars and Stripes available electronically?*

(A) Yes. Order electronic subscriptions by visiting [www.stripes.com](http://www.stripes.com). There is a fee for this service.

*(Q) How long can a spouse remain in government quarters after notification that her servicemember spouse has been declared dead or missing in action?*

(A) Family members of soldiers declared prisoners of war or missing in action may continue to occupy housing until their sponsor's status changes. Family members of deceased servicemembers who died in the line of duty will be permitted to remain in assigned adequate housing without charge for a period of 180 days after the sponsor's death. If family members are permitted to occupy the housing beyond 180 days, an amount equal to the soldier's housing allowance or appraised rental value (whichever is less) will be charged.

*(Q) Can a spouse of a deceased servicemember have household goods stored and later delivered when he decides where to make a home? How long can those household goods remain in storage? Can the spouse of a deceased servicemember ship a private vehicle?*

(A) The spouse of a deceased servicemember can have household goods stored and later delivered when he decides where to make a home. The length of storage depends on whether the spouse is also a servicemember. All spouses of deceased servicemembers are entitled to one year of household goods storage after the date of death. If the spouse is also a servicemember, then he is entitled to storage of the deceased servicemember's household goods until they make a permanent change-of-station move to a duty station that is not weight-limited or -restricted, or one year, whichever is longer.

The surviving spouse is entitled to ship one private vehicle. The vehicle can be shipped to the deceased servicemember's home of record; to the residence of the deceased servicemember's family members; to the deceased servicemember's next-of-kin, or any other person entitled to receive custody of the deceased servicemember's personal effects. The law also allows shipment to "such other place as determined in accordance with service regulations." For the Army, this is the

"approved destination," as determined by the approving officer. The approving officer is the commander of the installation near where the deceased servicemember was residing. The "approved destination" generally must be based on a "reasonable relationship existing between the circumstances of the applicant and the destination requested." The vehicle may be shipped through the government transportation office and vehicle processing center. The vehicle may also be driven to the authorized destination, and the surviving servicemember will be reimbursed for fuel; oil; parking fees; ferry fares; and road, bridge and tunnel tolls. Finally, the surviving servicemember may personally arrange for transportation of the vehicle to the authorized destination and be reimbursed for the actual transportation costs, up to the amount that the government would have paid to ship the vehicle to that destination. The surviving servicemember is entitled to store the vehicle for 180 days prior to shipment, if requested, provided the vehicle is turned over for shipment within one year of the date of death.